NEWS RELEASE

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MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
Interpreter Services to Help Victims In Over 60 Different Languages

WINDSOR – The Ontario government is investing $2.1 million in interpreter services so that victims of domestic violence get the help in the language they know best, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, Sandra Pupatello and Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration Mike Colle, announced today.

"Our government is helping women with limited English-language skills access the health care, legal and social services they need to escape abusive relationships," said Pupatello who was at the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County, which is receiving a $95,000 grant.

The Language Interpreter Services program provides grants to 10 agencies across the province to deliver interpretation services that are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in over 60 languages. The program is part of the government's comprehensive, four-year $68 million Domestic Violence Action Plan, which includes enhanced counselling and housing supports for victims, more training for frontline workers, and improvements to the justice system.

"Newcomers sometimes face language barriers that make it difficult for them to get help in times of need and distress," said Kathleen Thomas, Executive Director of the Multicultural Council of Windsor and Essex County. "We are pleased that this government recognizes the need to invest in services that allow the most vulnerable to get help."

Investment in the Language Interpreter Services program is the latest way the McGuinty government has supported vulnerable women. Other initiatives that are part of the government's Domestic Violence Action Plan include:

- Investing $4 million over two years in the Employment Training Pilot Program to help vulnerable women develop new skills, find employment, and achieve economic independence
- Investing over $58 million over four years to boost community supports such as shelters, crisis lines and counselling
- $2.7 million for Information Technology Training for Women (ITTW), a program that enables women to secure employment, further training and certification in the IT sector
- $5.9 million to train front-line workers, professionals, neighbours, friends and families across Ontario to recognize the signs of abuse, and help women and children get the supports they need, and
- $4.9 million for EqualityRules.ca, a public education campaign targeting children and youth and the adults who influence them, to change attitudes and mobilize communities to stop violence before it happens.

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